



KENTUCKY

General News

November 2008

Statewide i-Jam Conference Highlights Cybersafety Education



Attorney General Jack Conway, Kentucky Child Now and the Kentucky Department of Education kicked off their new cybersafety partnership with a statewide conference designed to teach adults to be online mentors and monitors. Nearly 300 people from across the state attended the two-day I-Jam conference held November 24-25 in Lexington.

“Today our children are logging on, creating virtual worlds and socializing online. It’s a world that many parents and teachers aren’t familiar with. Although the internet is a wonderful tool, it’s also a tool for crime,” said General Conway.

The statistics speak for themselves. One in seven youths ages 10-17 report receiving unwanted sexual advances online. Thirty percent involve attempts to make contact offline and only 25% of solicitations are reported to adults or law enforcement.

Although progress is being made in preventing child victimization online, both General Conway and Ernie Allen (pictured), Executive Director of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, cautioned that many parents still have a false sense of security when it comes to the Internet. A keynote speaker at the conference, Allen talked about the steps parents can take to better monitor their children in the virtual world. He also praised General Conway for his cybersafety education efforts.

For more information on cybersafety — <http://tinyurl.com/6ae8z3>

CONSUMER ALERT

Give Wisely This Holiday Season

If you’re planning to donate to a charitable organization this holiday season, make sure you give wisely. Attorney General Conway cautions Kentuckians to be on guard against fraudulent charities that prey on the generosity of others during the season of giving.

“Given the tough economic times, it is more important than ever to support charities that truly make a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate. However, consumers should be mindful that there are irresponsible, even fraudulent charities that abuse the public’s trust and deprive the needy,” General Conway said.

For more information on registered charities in Kentucky -- <http://tinyurl.com/6fouzu>

Tips for giving wisely

- ▶ Be cautious of sound alike charities and solicitors unable to answer questions.
- ▶ Always ask what percentage of your dollar goes to the cause.
- ▶ Ask for written information before giving so you can research the charity through the Office of the Attorney General or the Better Business Bureau.
- ▶ Is the charity/professional solicitor registered with the Office of the Attorney General?
- ▶ Never be pressured into making a donation. Hang up on or walk away from aggressive or pushy solicitors.



Kentucky Attorney General
Jack Conway

Tips for Shopping Wisely

Online Shopping

- ▶ Only deal with companies that you know and trust.
- ▶ Shop only on sites that offer secure payment processing.
- ▶ Beware of auction or listing sites that require you to wire money rather than using a secure payment processor.
- ▶ Be aware that if you're selling an item, you may be contacted by con artists as well.

Gift Cards

- ▶ Research the financial stability of the store before purchasing a gift card.
- ▶ Shop with established stores that you know and trust. If a store closes, the gift card is of no value to the recipient.

If you have been a victim of a consumer scam, contact the Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-888-432-9257.

Check Video Game Ratings When Buying Games As Gifts

Attorney General Conway urges parents and other consumers to check the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) rating before purchasing computer or video games as gifts. Although these ratings appear on the front and back of each game, the ESRB has introduced a video game rating search "widget," a free downloadable tool, that will allow consumers to search for games by their title, and provide easy access to "rating summaries."

"As a supplement to the ESRB rating system, the new online device will empower parents and consumers to make informed decisions about what's appropriate for their children. The rating summaries take consumer education to the next level by providing exclusive and unprecedented insight about game content," said General Conway.

The new rating summaries are available by searching titles on ESRB's website at <http://www.esrb.org>. Consumers can download their very own video game rating search widget, free of charge, by going to <http://www.esrb.org/widget>. Rating summaries are also accessible from a new mobile website at <http://m.esrb.org>, which allows consumers to search game titles on their mobile devices right at the point of purchase.

For more information — <http://tinyurl.com/6xjcqs>



Election Fraud Hotline Receives Record Number of Calls on Election Day

Given the enormous interest in both the state and national elections, Attorney General Conway was not surprised that his Election Fraud Hotline received a record 271 Election Day calls from 50 counties. The previous record was 182 calls on Election Day during the General Election in 2006.

The majority of calls came from county officials or voters with procedural questions. The most common complaints concerned election officials, electronic voting machines and electioneering within 300 feet of a polling place. There were four complaints of vote-buying. None of those complaints was substantiated.

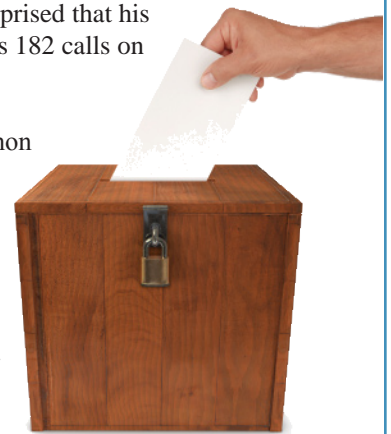
"I appreciate voters and concerned citizens who, even with a near record voter turnout in the Commonwealth, took time to be our eyes and ears in the polling places," said General Conway.

Investigators with the Office of the Attorney General conducted on-site surveys of polling places in each of Kentucky's six congressional districts. Agents were able to provide immediate response to any allegations of voting irregularities. Staff did not observe any election violations in the counties they surveyed.

As required by state law, General Conway held a public drawing to select the six counties that will undergo post election audits. The counties selected were Pendleton, Edmonson, Monroe, Cumberland, Montgomery and Union counties.

This was a random drawing and the selection of these counties does not imply that irregularities are suspected. The post-election audits supplement the work already done by investigators in the Office of the Attorney General. As part of the post election audit, investigators will check voting machines, election forms and interview officials in the selected counties to again ensure that the election was free and fair.

For more information — <http://tinyurl.com/647cka>



Agreement Reached Concerning Adult Content on Craigslist

Attorney General Jack Conway was pleased to announce on November 6 that he and 42 other state attorneys general and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) had reached an historic agreement with the online classified ad website, Craigslist, to crack down on inappropriate adult content that could be accessed by children. Additionally, Craigslist will deploy search technology that it developed to assist the NCMEC and law enforcement agencies in identifying missing persons, children and victims of human trafficking.

Under the agreement, Craigslist will remove ads for illicit services and non-age appropriate materials from areas of the website that are accessible to children. The site will also require those who post ads featuring adult services to list a working phone number and pay a fee with a valid credit card that has a traceable billing address. This should significantly reduce the number of adult-services and or child prostitution ads on the website. It also gives law enforcement a tool to track illegal prostitution and or any other criminal investigation that may result from the use of Craigslist.

“Like Facebook and MySpace, Craigslist is a popular Internet destination for our nation’s youth. As such, it is vital that we continue to work together to combat unlawful activity online and to protect our children from those who wish to do them harm,” General Conway said.

Additionally, Craigslist will investigate and provide information to state attorneys general for the prosecution of those engaging in and facilitating criminal activity.

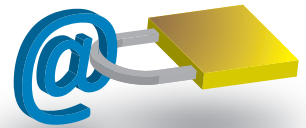
For more information — <http://tinyurl.com/66u5ko>

Cybercrimes Arrest On Kentucky College Campus



A joint investigation between the Office of the Attorney General’s Cybercrimes Unit and the Williamsburg Police Department has resulted in the arrest of 23-year-old Sungkook Kim, a student at the University of the Cumberlands. Kim is charged with Identity Theft, Unlawful Access to a Computer 1st and Unlawful Access to a Computer 2nd for allegedly hacking into his fellow students’ email accounts and trying to blackmail them with personal information he obtained.

“I appreciate the university’s cooperation in this investigation,” General Conway said. “Our investigators are currently examining the digital forensics in our lab and will soon be able to determine how sophisticated this operation was and if additional charges could be filed.”



An indictment or arrest is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until or unless found guilty.

Medicaid Fraud Investigator Receives Prestigious Law Enforcement Award

An investigator in the Office of the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud and Abuse Control Division is this year’s recipient of the “Kentucky Women’s Law Enforcement Network’s Lifetime Achievement Award.” The Kentucky Women’s Law Enforcement Network (KWLEN) presented Nikki Henderson with the prestigious award at a November 20 ceremony in Lexington.

“Nikki has been a tireless crusader against elder abuse. I am honored to have her on my staff and thrilled that she is the recipient of this award that pays tribute to the significant contributions she has made in her pursuit of justice,” said General Conway.

Before being hired by the Office of the Attorney General in 2006, Henderson (pictured, center, with Deputy Attorney General Dana Mayton and KWLEN president Major Kathy Eigelbach) worked in the Division of Aging Services at the Cabinet for Health and Families. She is a retired Sergeant from the Louisville Metro Police Department, where she worked to create the Jefferson County Police Crimes Against Seniors Unit and has been the Issue Specialist for Elder Abuse in Kentucky for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Henderson also received the first annual “Kentucky Aging Network 2005 Advocate of the Year Award.”



The Kentucky Women’s Law Enforcement Network is a statewide organization dedicated to mentoring and developing individuals in the various fields of law enforcement careers.